

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 81, Number 34

Smokin' the rope since 1911.

Monday, November 4, 1991



Be it for a seed or a kilo, Montréal police are out to make an arrest. Zero tolerance is heralded by "law-and-order heros" as the anti-drug strategy for the 90s. But critics say the policy gives the cops and the courts an easy excuse to re-enforce racial and class prejudices. CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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EVENTS

Persecuted Jewelry Committee is meeting at Hillel House, 16h00. Readings from Thomas King, author of Medicine River, editor of All my Relations: An Anthology of Contemporary Native Fiction, co-editor of The Native in Fiction. Presented by Concordia's Department of English. 18h30 in Room 763 (Faculty Dining Room) of the Hall Bldg., 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Info: 848-2340

"How I Spent My Summer Vacation: History, Literature, and a Cant of Authenticity." Concordia's Department of English. 13h15 in Room 303 of the Norris Bldg., 1435 Drummond St. Info: 848-2340

Chemical Society Lecture on "Elegant theory to terrible experiment: Molecular modeling of surfactants," Prof. M. A. Whitehead. 13h00 in Room 10, Otto Maas Bldg.

"The Silence Of The Lambs" at Thompson House, 3650 McTavish. 21h30 Post Grads, members and guests only.

"Distress Signals", a CBC documentary on the globalization of television, presented by Co-operation Now! MIDSA: Media Analysis Group. Union 435. 19h30 **Centre for Developing Area Studies** presents Samuel Mercado, a Miskito Indian from Nicaragua and Program Officer of Plenty Canada, speaking on "The role of indigenous peoples and NGO's in development." 3715 Peel St., Seminar Room 100 at 10h00.

Jewish Choral Concert at Shaare Zedek Synagogue. Featuring 5 Jewish choirs. 20h00. Info: 487-5073. \$5

Latin American Awareness Group weekly meeting in Union 435 at 17h00. New members welcome.

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Democratic coalition wins city by-election

by Peter Clibbon

Members of the Democratic Coalition of Montréal celebrated their by-election victory in Nôtre-Dame de Grace last night.

Human rights activist and DCM member Claudette Demers-Godley won the west-end riding, providing the DCM with a fourth seat at city council and bolstering the party's position as official opposition.

"Our win is a vote of confidence for our councillors already with a seat on [city] council," said Democratic Coalition organizer Garry Saxe. "I think people saw the DCM as the legitimate opposition in city hall."

"The victory in NDG gives the DCM a lot of momentum as the official opposition. We now have a lot more credibility as a party, as well as more resources," said Saxe.

Demers-Godley gathered 41 per cent of votes cast, doubling the amount obtained by her closest competitor, Civic Party candidate

Marcel Tremblay, who received 20 per cent of the votes cast.

In one polling station, support for Demers-Godley reached 82 per cent, while Tremblay only gathered 13 per cent.

The candidate for the ruling Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM), Leith Hamilton, came fourth with 16 per cent of votes. In total, 4954 ballots were cast.

The loss of the NDG riding comes as a shock to the MCM which had held the west-end riding since 1986.

The seat became vacant following the retirement of Michael Fainstat, a long-time MCM councillor and member of the city government's powerful executive committee.

"There was a great anger with [Mayor Jean] Doré and the MCM," said Saxe. "NDG provided the origi-

nal support for the MCM which, at the time, pushed for more openness and consultation at city hall."

Citizens in the west-end have a history of dissidence with the ruling parties of city hall. During periods of the 30-year reign of Civic Party mayor Jean Drapeau, west-end ridings elected MCM councillors to the opposition. In 1986, the Drapeau dynasty was abruptly toppled following a landslide MCM victory,

the party winning every riding except one.

However, several dissident MCM councillors were later ejected from the party after their refusal to tow the party line, resulting in the formation of the DCM. In the 1991 municipal elections, DCM members won three ridings, including two in the west-end.

The Municipal and Civic parties each hold two seats at city council.

\$18,000 budget cut in half

Arts & Science magazine threatened

by Sara Robson



ASUS VP finance Susan Nickerson

Funding for this year's *Pillar* magazine has been slashed in half and editors say the quarterly might be forced to cut three of its issues.

An \$18 000 budget presented by *Pillar* editors to the Arts and Science Undergraduates Society (ASUS) was reduced to \$9000 last week.

Editor Rebecca Livy said the

funding cut doesn't reflect the growing interest the magazine has received since September.

"We have twice as many submissions and twice as many staff members compared with last year," said Livy.

ASUS VP finance Susan Nickerson said the *Pillar* budget as presented would have sapped 20 per cent of ASUS's entire budget.

"The ASUS had a desire to put money into areas that we felt would benefit the arts and science students most," said Nickerson.

She said that even with this year's funding cuts, the *Pillar*'s cost per issue could be higher than last year. She commented that stacks of two-year old, unrecyclable *Pillars* were still in the ASUS offices.

Livy said the cut to this year's funding will have a disastrous effect on the format of the magazine and the number of issues published. She originally hoped to publish more material than last year in a larger, more "professional" format. Now she says "this will be very, very

difficult."

Livy said the quarterly might be reduced to a single 100-page issue with reduced circulation, no colour and newsprint instead of glossy paper.

Pillar managing editor Siân Jones said the magazine serves to unite the bridge between arts and science students united in the ASUS.

"The *Pillar* is the only thing ASUS does that touches the most students," said Jones. "It is the vehicle through which they can reach the most students and the area where the most students can be represented," he said.

Political science student Jeff Monachello said the funding cut will deprive undergraduates of a creative outlet.

"A loss of funds is absurd and will greatly diminish the forms in which undergrads can publish their artistic expression," said Monachello.

"This is something that is for us by us. Anyone can participate in it. Who the hell makes these decisions

for us? No one asked me about this."

Nickerson says that the bulk of the money slashed from the *Pillar*'s budget will be used to finance "special projects" including speakers and extra funding to departmental associations.

Adding insult to injury, *Pillar* staff feel they were given the run-around by ASUS members. Livy said they were told on two separate occasions that the meeting to finalize the *Pillar*'s budget would be held on November 5, when in fact it was held on October 28. As a result, no *Pillar* staff members were present to answer questions concerning their budget.

The *Pillar* is a student-run publication that publishes art, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction created by students. It is published by the ASUS.

According to Livy, the writing and layout for the 90-page issue planned for this month was very near to being finished. *Pillar* staff meet today to decide how the cut will affect the issue.

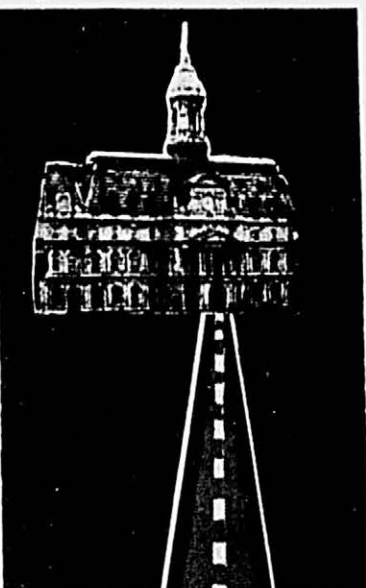


PHOTO CREDIT: JAN DUHA

Hillel TV party watches CNN through the night

by Daniel Koffler

Seventy students arrived at Hillel House early Thursday morning to watch Arabs and Israelis talk peace on CNN. They also came to show their support for the Israeli delegation.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's speech, televised at 4h00, were met with applause from the students.

"Shamir's speech was historical, yet optimistic, and it's hard to be both," said Hillel president Charles Boulakia.

But other students felt Shamir's comments were just a reiteration of the standard Israeli line. His remark that Palestinians and other Arabs need to make the initial concessions provoked disagreement.

"Israel is still holding all the cards, yet would like to portray itself as a victim," said Bruce Fudge, a member of McGill's Palestine Solidarity Committee.

Shamir called for bilateral talks and suggested that either Arab delegates visit Israel or Israeli delegates visit Arab countries, in the model of the Camp David accords which

initiated a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. He also said Palestinians should stop throwing stones and bombs and help negotiate an interim Palestinian government.

"Of course Shamir is still calling for bilateral negotiations, he's the only one who will benefit from them," said Fudge. "The Camp David accords were seen as a disaster throughout the Arab world, including Egypt."

Shamir is trying to avoid discussion of an independent Palestine by emphasizing bilateral negotiations, Fudge added. "By wanting to negotiate only with neighbouring countries, he is trying to sidestep Palestinian rights."

By 5h00, foreign minister Kamel Abu Jaber had begun presenting the Jordanian delegation's opening remarks.

Unlike Shamir, Abu Jaber said he definitely wanted preliminary discussions to include the "land for peace" proposal, in which Israel would relinquish territory gained in the 1967 war with her Arab neighbours.

Hillel director Michael Gisser found the Jordanian presentation

lacking. "Not once did the Jordanian delegation mention that the state of war with Israel would be lifted," he said.

Only at 7h30 did the Palestinian support group members Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Hussein get to comment on Shamir's speech.

They said in days preceding the conference they saw hope for compromise from the Israeli delegation, but Shamir's comments had set the talks back to square one.

Ashrawi criticized holding bilateral talks in the Middle East. If the Palestinians were to talk in Israel, he said, they would be put at a severe disadvantage.

Only if Israel were to relin-

quish all the territories would Palestinians be ready to negotiate.

By the time the Palestinians had finished speaking, most of the students had dozed off, gone home or to class.

After the first ever negotiations

between Israel and all her Arab neighbours, most Hillel members were optimistic. "On the whole, I was pleased with the outcome. There were no surprises and the future looks bright," said Hillel member Eric Block.



PHOTO CREDIT: DANIEL KOFFLER

Hillel members watching the peace conference at 4:00 am

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

Support the health plan

An elder once said if there's only two things we should take care of, it's our eyes and our teeth. We can't ever replace our eyes, and dentures ain't much fun.

Guaranteed access to taking care of these two parts, not to mention the rest of our bodies, should be a universal right. And this week, Students' Society is bringing to referendum a health plan that is a step in that direction.

The proposed health plan is a basic insurance policy that covers drugs, accidents and minimal travel insurance. For a basic premium of \$43 per year, students can rest assured that they won't be forced to choose between paying food bills and prescription drug costs.

Students would be able to claim up to \$2 500 per year. This covers all prescription drugs — everything from antibiotic skin cream to AZT.

After a short binge of unnecessary kerfuffle, Students' Society also included the Birth Control Pill in the plan. This provision alone makes the plan a good deal: a woman (and her het partner) can save over \$100 for a year's perscription of the pill.

For those short jaunts to the States, the minimal travel insurance is handy. American hospitals, ambulances and X-rays don't come cheap.

As for accident coverage, the insurance company can't weasel out of the plan by claiming a student was drunk or stoned at the time of accident.

For an extra \$80, a student can also claim spouses and dependents — that includes same-sex spouses.

In addition, there's an opt-out clause for students who can prove they're already covered by an equal or better plan.

The plan isn't without problems. It doesn't cover condoms, nor does it pay for abortions. It won't pay for glasses or the dentist. Students still have to fork out the money and, only then, file claims to be reimbursed. At other schools, the insurance company has set up accounts at nearby pharmacies to save students the paperwork and hassle.

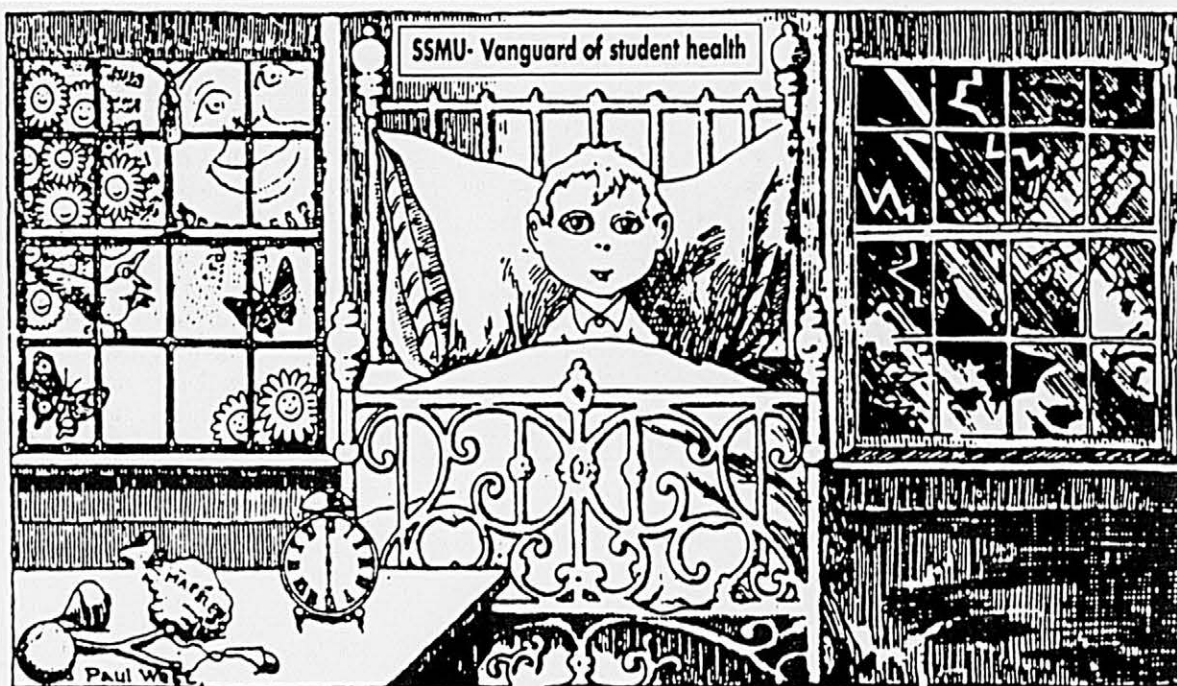
But the plan is binding for the company, not for us. We can dump it at any time. Control is in students' hands. If the basic premium goes \$3.50 over the present cost, the whole plan will go back to referendum. The present plan only covers the basics, but it can be improved later on.

Students' Society's proposed health plan doesn't yet cover our eyes nor our teeth, but the plan still deserves our support in tomorrow's referendum. It's actually one of the few times we actually have a say in our student government's policies. Council also needs a quorum to pass the plan.

It would be unfortunate if one of the useful things Council has done this year doesn't get our support.

Peter Clibbon
Robin LeBaron

Katerina Cizek
Susan Vivian



LETTERS

chauvinists.

We must open our eyes to the history of my people and the oppression they have endured. With the formation of our new army, and the referendum on independence December first of this year, a great deal is uncertain. Before long, our soldiers will go into battle against the oppressors and their puppets, with a familiar maxim which has been used in the struggle of oppressed peoples throughout the ages: *Volia abo Smeri' — Liberty or Death.*

Vasyl Pawlowsky

Grad 1990

Honorary member,
Lviv Studenstke Bratstvo

Are we hateful?

To the Daily:

Re: "Bounds of Speech"

We disagree with you. Do you deem that statement hateful? Anyone can identify numerous regimes under which such a statement would result in imprisonment or worse. If we allow a single individual or group to determine what is or is not "acceptable" speech, what is to prevent any opinion contrary to those of that body from being deemed beyond the bounds of freedom of speech? Who is to decide what constitutes "hateful literature"? The Nazis included in this category anything

said against the Third Reich.

Do the authors believe that the Women's Union and LBGM are unable to argue against sexist and homophobic opinions, and that therefore these opinions must be suppressed and allowed to continue? Or should they be brought to the forefront, where they may be discussed logically and proven to be unfounded? As the *Daily* recognizes, "Keeping silent about this [or any] situation helps to perpetuate it." "Freedom is the freedom to say 2+2=4; after that, all else follows" (George Orwell, 1984). We maintain

continued on page 10

HYDE PARK

A land without a people for a people without a land

—opinion by Palestine Solidarity Committee

This was a justification behind Zionist aspirations for the creation of a Jewish national home in Palestine.

The Balfour Declaration was written 74 years ago this week, in 1917, promising support for this cause. It took the form of a private letter from Lord Balfour to Lord Rothschild, a prominent British Zionist. Never mind the fact that British promises of this nature were numerous and often contradictory. Never mind the fact that it promised the creation of a national Jewish home and not an exclusive Jewish state. The most significant fact is that Lord Balfour refers to over 90 per cent of the Palestinian people as the "existing non-Jewish population."

Palestine is one of the richest lands of the Middle East, as well as the home to holy sites of the world's three monotheistic religions. The population in 1917 was 78 per cent Muslim, 15 per cent Christian and 7 per cent Jewish. All spoke a distinctive Palestinian dialect of Arabic. A rich culture of arts and crafts, music, dance and literature thrived in the cities — Bethlehem, Nazereth, Jerusalem, Hebron and Jaffa. Palestine may not have had well defined boundaries, but its people did have a strong sense of their own national identity.

But Balfour wrote in 1919 that "we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the present wishes of the inhabitants of the country."

"The Four Great Powers are committed to Zionism and Zionism be it right or wrong, good or bad is rooted in age-long tradition, in present needs, in future hopes of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the

700 000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land," Balfour continued.

"In my opinion that is right."

The last 74 years show Balfour's reasoning to be questionable. These "700 000 Arabs" may have been internationally ignored and militarily defeated, but they have not disappeared. They have remained at the core of Middle Eastern conflict throughout this century. Their "desires and prejudices" had nothing to do with Jews or with Judaism, but rather with the fact that they were being deprived of their lands.

Lord Balfour established a precedent for the systematic denial of Palestinian national rights, and such attitudes have tainted the Western perspective since then. History has been edited to show only half of the kaleidoscope.

Most in the Western world know the 1948 war as Israel's "War of Independence." How many amongst us are familiar with the Palestinian perspective? In the eyes of the indigenous population, Israel's triumphant liberation is seen as Al-Nakbah: The Disaster.

Just as Balfour chose to reject a Palestinian identity, so we too have become heirs to this prejudice. Consequently there is no perception of a Palestinian culture. Palestinians are viewed as a mass of faceless terrorists and refugees. Missing is the larger context of an uprooted people.

Even the right of self-representation is being denied at the current peace conference in Madrid. Balfour's priorities persist. This denial violates a fundamental human right, and leads to further violations. This is the legacy of the Balfour Declaration.

LETTERS

First, the Tsars...

To the Daily:

It has been two months since Alex Roslin interviewed Oleh Khavych and Orest Vasylytsiv, both Ukrainian student leaders, for the *Daily*. In looking back two months, to the day of the interview, along with Mr. Roslin's comment in Monday's *Daily* entitled *To Russia with Love*, in addition to the reports I heard yesterday that Mr. Yeltsin is calling for the formation of an army for the Russian Republic, I have asked myself: What is the future of my country, Ukraine?

Is Boris making ready for war with my country? It sure as hell seems like it. As suggested by Mr. Roslin, the Western media keeps on describing him as the leader of "democratic forces." WAIT! Are not most of Yeltsin's constituency made up of OMON Internal Ministry troops, the very same troops that went into the Baltics and killed numerous individuals struggling for democracy

and independence for their countries? Some democrat. The man does seem to be more of a cur, an Imperialist dressed as a democrat, no thanks to Western media.

My country has been under occupation by imperialistic forces for over three centuries. First the Tsars, then the bolsheviks who imposed their Russophile attitudes on Ukraine through the late 1920's, genocide in the 1930's, and mass arrests throughout the 1960's and to as recently as 1987 of artists, and other *intelligentsia*.

Must we continue in the yoke of those who continue to impose their will upon our people? I say no. If the West continues to recognize Boris Yeltsin as the "democratic hero", and refuses to recognize the right of my country to their aspirations of nationhood, then I fear there will most likely be bloodshed in my country, for its people are tired of being dictated to by Russian and other

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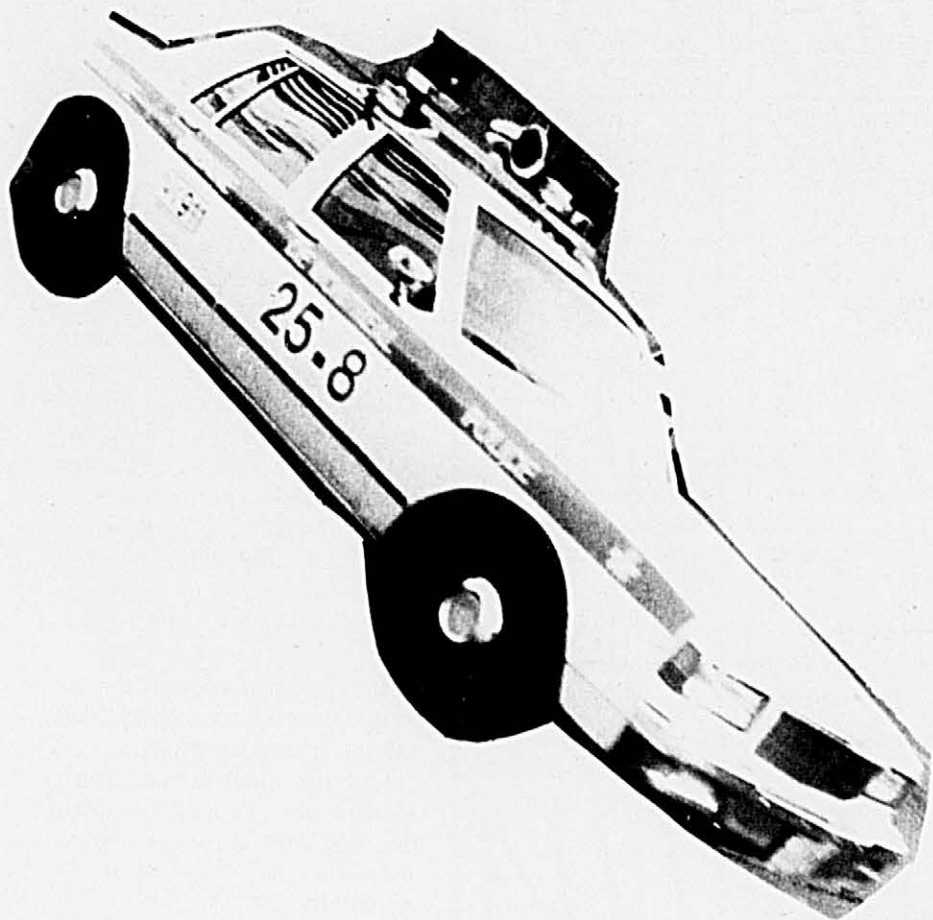
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Zero tolerance : No one's getting high



continued from cover

By Shane Duarte & Chloë Town

Montréal Urban Community police adopted the zero tolerance drug policy this January and since then the number of arrests has doubled. Police now arrest anyone found with illegal drugs in their possession, regardless of the quantity.

Before January a certain amount of leniency and tolerance existed, as is still the case in many cities. Drugs were illegal, but police held that a slap on the wrist was sufficient to stop occasional users from becoming drug addicts.

With zero tolerance, however, the name dictates the philosophy. No longer will warnings or small fines be used to deter drug use. Instead, emphasis is on criminal records, court cases and potential jail sentences. Between January and March of this year, as many arrests for drug possession were made as in the entire previous year.

Lieutenant Claude Morin, of the MUC's narcotics unit said zero tolerance "stops users from becoming potential dealers, while at the same time inhibiting their habits."

Morin said the zero tolerance policy is another tool of anti-drug education.

"Younger people can benefit from drug-education they receive in school," said Morin. "But older people only get the anti-drug message from police on the occasion of their first arrest for drug possession."

Morin said zero tolerance is not an attempt to actively search out occasional drug users. But that doesn't mean occasional drug-users should expect lenient treatment from police.

Morin said zero tolerance is what the general public now wants. He said the public is taking an active role against the drug trade in their neighbourhoods.

"If you look at people who live in the drug-infested areas of Montréal, they organize themselves into anti-drug groups," said Morin. "They are scared and they have just cause to be."

Demand still exists

A year has past since the imposition of zero tolerance and the policy's validity remains in question. Proponents and opponents to zero tolerance both agree drug-usage is only a symptom of other social ills. But opinions differ greatly over whether zero tolerance has actually had an effect.

Marie-Andrée Bertrand, professor of criminology at Université de Montréal, said it is "obscene to think that people will stop using drugs," and that zero tolerance policy is counter-productive.

Bertrand is president of the Anti-Prohibition League, an international organization fighting for the legalization of drugs. The League believes that the criminalization of drugs is ineffective and gives rise to more problems than it can hope to solve.

Bertrand said that by limiting the supply, peoples' demand shifts from one drug to another. She points to several large border seizures which have caused the price of cocaine to increase on the streets of Montréal. According to Bertrand this has resulted in greater consumption levels of heroin, and no reduction in the consumption of drugs overall.

Furthermore, people often turn to dangerous alternatives when their regular drug is unavailable. In the '30s, during the prohibition of alcohol in the United States, people often built homemade stills. She said many stills were unsafe, resulting in numerous cases of poisoning.

Bertrand said the League doesn't advocate the use of drugs. It opposes criminalization because it causes drug-related crime and violence to increase. When drugs are outlawed, they go underground, become more expensive and people must resort to crime to support their habit.

Police are therefore aggravating the problem, said Bertrand, with the new zero tolerance policy.

Fear and Hysteria

McGill economics Professor Thomas Naylor specializes in underground economies. According to Naylor, zero tolerance is part of a fear-mongering campaign seeking to enhance the police force's image and silence its critics. He said an insidious, volatile and seemingly all-pervasive threat such as drug-use only enhances the police's image as a "protection force" — even if the protection needed is slight.

slums and forms a basis for racial bigotry."

And indeed, anti-drug legislation has been a repressive tool throughout Canada's history. The country's first legislation outlawing drugs — the first Western nation to do so — was racially motivated.

Former Prime Minister Mackenzie King outlawed opium in 1908 to spite Vancouver's Asian community, citing the drug as evil.

The outlawing of other drugs was also racially and politically motivated; Marijuana was denoted as a "Mexican evil," and during the prohibition era, a WASP perspective maintained that alcohol was an Irish Catholic threat to proper English values.

"Criminalization of drugs was born out of ignorance and maintained by dishonesty," said Naylor.

Zero-tolerance allows authorities to arrest people they would otherwise find difficult to charge. In the '60s and early '70s political dissidents and agitators were often

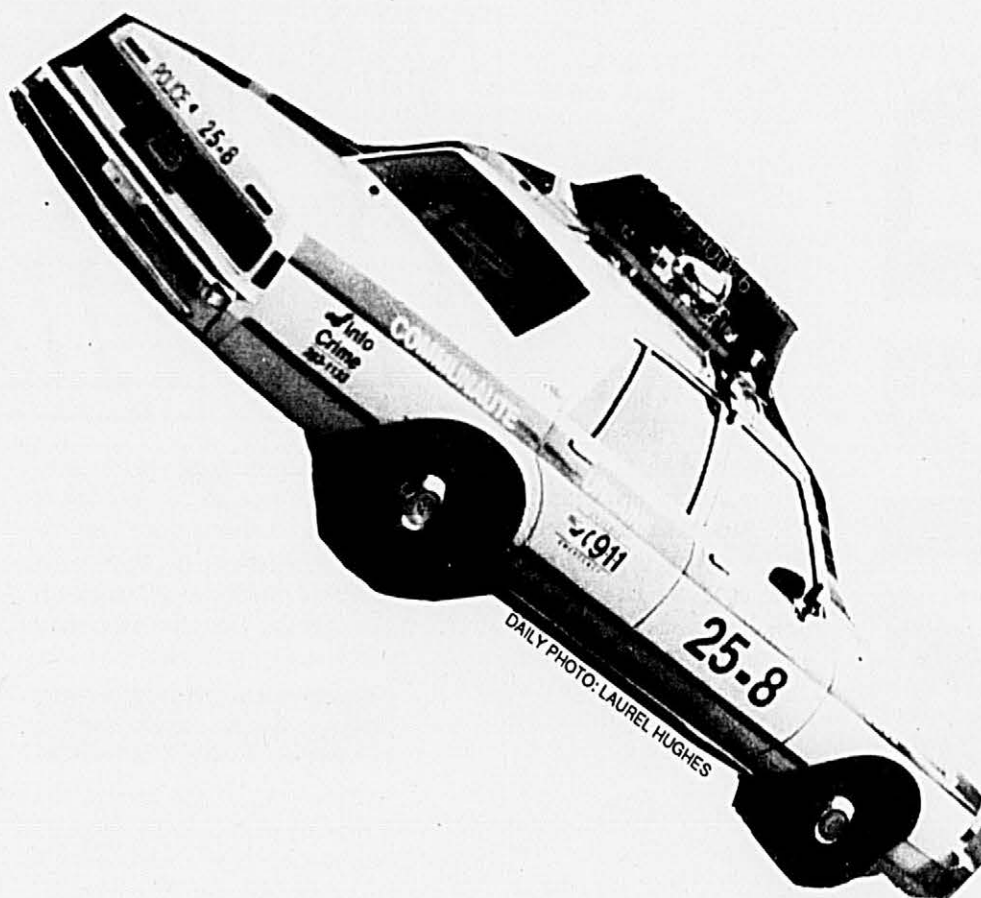
arrested for drug possession.

Yet despite the history lessons on the fallacies of stereotyping, drug use remains synonymous with "degenerates," criminals and the poor.

For most McGill students, the implementation of zero tolerance has meant little. Although drugs abound on university campuses, people are reluctant to hassle students, whom they perceive

as coming from upper and middle class backgrounds.

Police have decided on zero tolerance in the hope that by arresting the drug-users, consumption will decline. Morin said in the past ten months alone, the overwhelming public support of the policy has been encouraging. In the other camp, the critics label zero tolerance as short-sighted and ill-motivated. The only point on which they can agree is that the underlying social and economic factors leading to drug abuse remain, leaving the problem unsolved.



Montréalers who have organized at the neighbourhood level are only responding to that climate of fear that the police have created with zero tolerance and other legislation.

He pointed out that drug use has been on the decline since the mid-80s. Drug use comes in waves, he explained, like fads or fashions. Politicians' rhetoric in favour of increased security and larger prisons to fight drug-related crime comes during a period when drug-use is actually on the decline.

"The Reagan/Bush anti-drug crusade sought to capitalize on this recent decline," said Naylor. "Drug use statistics may be declining but that has little to do with a national 'war on drugs' but rather with the popularity of drugs," said Naylor.

Selective enforcement

Drug enforcement of this nature also has a tendency to be selective in its application, said Naylor. "It allows the police to poke their noses in the

DAILY PHOTO: LAUREL HUGHES

WOW AND THEN

by Paul Reinis

*And what is good,
Phaedrus,
And what is not good—
Need we ask anyone to
tell us these things?*

That, as they say, was
Zen, and this is now.

After 15 years, the long-awaited second novel has arrived by Robert Pirsig, author of the celebrated *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. *Lila*, subtitled "An Inquiry into Morals", is written in the same style as *Zen*; the narrative is interspersed with the author's musings on the undefined notion of Quality. But *Lila* lacks the freshness and originality of Pirsig's classic groundbreaking first novel.

With a few exceptions, its attempts to form a complete "Metaphysics of Quality", which can explain all the world's problems, leave the reader unsatisfied.

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, rejected by 121 editors before being published in 1974, became one of the most read books of a generation.

The plot was simple. A father and his 11-year-old son are travelling to San Francisco from Minnesota by motorcycle. The narrator, Pirsig, is trying to deal with his shadowy alter-ego, Phaedrus (named after a dialogue of Plato). It turns out Phaedrus is actually Pirsig himself — as he existed before undergoing electro-shock therapy and spending time in a mental institution.

While on the bike, there is very little communication between father and son — but much thought. This reflection is organized into "Chautauquas" — "intended to edify and entertain," as Pirsig puts it — and they are the most important part of the novel.

They constitute the inquiry into values which Pirsig takes up again in his second book.

Pirsig is very concerned with the Western dualities of what he calls romantic and classic thought (subject/object, artistic/scientific, hip/square, left brain/right brain, etc). He attempts to unify them by the introduction of the undefined idea of Quality, which he defines as "the continuing stimulus which our environment puts upon us to create the world in which we live," or, "the parent, the source of all subjects and objects."

Pirsig's superb realist prose

weaves narrative with philosophical discourse so the reader is immersed in the narrator's experiences and reflections. Both parts build and develop together to provide a tightly written, beautiful story with a satisfying climax.

Not as much fun

Robert M. Pirsig entered the University of Minnesota at age 14 with the intention of becoming a molecular biologist. After graduation in 1950 he went on to study Oriental philosophy in India. Upon returning to the U.S. he taught composition and rhetoric in Montana and did graduate work in ancient philosophy at the University of Chicago.

Describing his two books he writes that "*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* was like a first child. Maybe that will always be the best-loved one. But this second child is the bright one. I think a lot of people will argue with some of the ideas in *Lila*. There may be controversy. But if people are still reading these two books a hundred years from now, I predict *Lila* will be the one they consider the more important."

Indeed, *Lila* is clearly the result of years of refinement of the origi-

nal ideas presented in *Zen*, but it doesn't have the same electricity as *Zen*. It's simply not as much fun.

In *Lila*, the mode of travel is a sailboat and Phaedrus is now heading east down the Hudson River towards New York as winter is approaching. This setting provides a feeling of claustrophobia that contrasts with the wide open expanses of *Zen*. Instead of his son Chris (who died in 1979), his travelling companion is a woman he meets in a bar in Kingston. But *Lila* has very little to add to the story except as a subject of Phaedrus' patronizing interviews and musings.

Important throughout *Lila* is Pirsig's Metaphysics of Quality. "Quality is indivisible, undefinable, and unknowable in the sense that there is a knower and a known," he writes; "A metaphysics must be divisible, definable, and knowable or there isn't any metaphysics," so that "a Metaphysics of Quality is essentially a contradiction in terms, a logical absurdity."

But although Pirsig is writing about a contradiction, he decided to "do it anyway. It's interesting."

Briefly stated, Pirsig's M. of Q. contains two main ideas — Dynamic Quality and static quality (the capitalization is Pirsig's). Dynamic Quality is "the pre-intellectual cut-

ting edge of reality, the source of all things, completely simple and always new... its only perceived good is freedom and its only perceived evil is static quality."

On the other hand, static quality "emerges in the wake of Dynamic Quality.... Good is conformity to an established pattern of fixed values and value objects.... Its values don't change by themselves."

The connection between static and Dynamic Quality is that "All life is a migration of static patterns in quality toward Dynamic Quality."

Pirsig also has divided static quality into four hierarchical patterns of value — inorganic, biological, social, and intellectual. This Metaphysics of Quality is used throughout the book to provide insight on modern life and Western society.

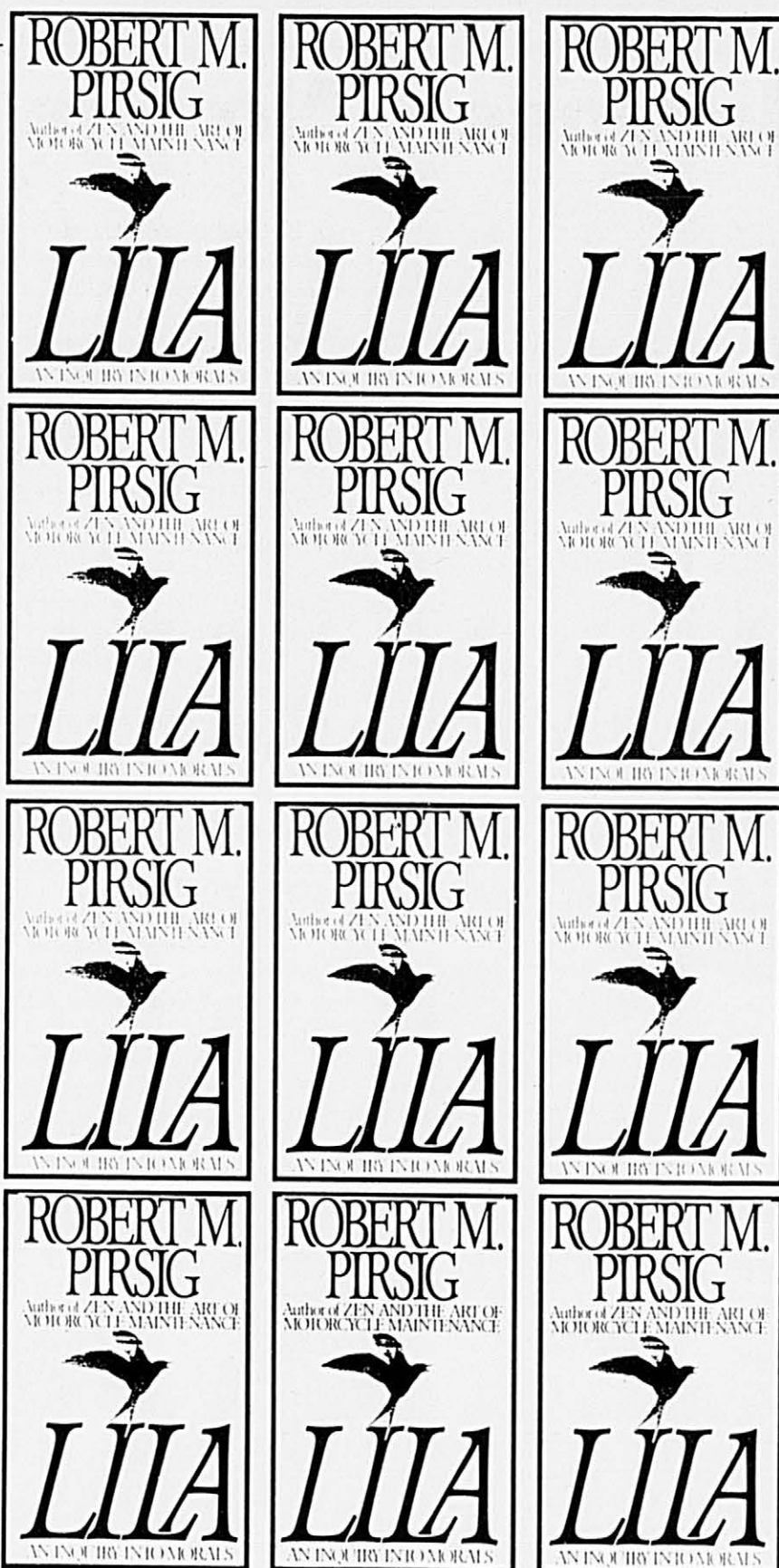
The Victorians, for example, are neatly described as "the last people to believe that patterns of intellect are subordinate to patterns of society." They repressed the value patterns of Dynamic Quality by always asking: "Does society approve?" They were stuck in a static social moral code. Pirsig also marvellously describes the faults of a purely "objective" anthropology, and of the division of science from social morals, cultural relativism, and the Great Cities.

At some point, however, the pigeon-holing of these ideas becomes tiresome and even pompous. Pirsig invites controversy with his particularly troublesome ideas on race, for example. In his analysis of the hippies, he states that "the cultural values of blacks and [American] Indians, to the extent that they were anti-intellectual [social, he states earlier], were mimicked." Later on, while discussing racism he says that cultures can be morally judged, with one kind coming out superior to another: "a culture that supports the dominance of intellectual values over social values is absolutely superior to one that does not."

Unlike *Zen*, the characterization and plot of *Lila* does not add to the development of the philosophy; and so *Lila* loses a lot of its potential. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* provided the reader with an unforgettable novel full of useful insights.

Lila is an unconnected concoction of the author's personal reflections on Quality that conclude (proving that all roads do indeed lead to Greece) with the stupidly banal "Good is a noun." That's it. Quality is The Good. Big fucking deal.

Robert M. Pirsig
Lila: An Inquiry into Morals
(Bantam Books, 1991)



Still waiting at the foot of the stairs Still waiting at the foot of the stairs Still waiting at the foot of the stairs Still waiting at the foot of the stairs Still waiting at the foot of the stairs Still waiting at the foot of the stairs Still waiting at the foot of the stairs

by Lynn Chaiken

The office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Powell Student Services Building - on the physically inaccessible second floor.

Called "the laughing stock of North America" in a recent report, the office location is just the first roadblock facing students with disabilities at McGill.

The west-wing of the Arts Building, Redpath Hall and most of the Powell Student Services Building are inaccessible locations, to name a few.

"If you are restricted by access then McGill isn't giving their students a total education. Here, accessibility actually restricts the programs you can take," said another anonymous student quoted in the report.

Authors Caroline Kasnakian and Caitlin Keelan presented the report to the Joint Senate/Board Committee for Persons with Disabilities in September. The report promotes action and sensitization to McGill's access problems.

Sensitizing the McGill community is an important impediment to greater accessibility. University Affairs representative Rosalind Ward-Smith said, "How many students don't come to McGill because they see the roadblocks? The university should be prepared to make changes before a student has to ask for what has to be done."

"Access should be priority number one and there needs to be more sensitization on the behalf of the professors," said Ward-Smith.

Meribah Aikens, coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, often advocates on the behalf of students whose professors may not understand a disabled student's needs. These needs may be difficult to recognize when a student has a learning disability.

Aikens said she's occasionally contacted by professors inquiring why a student needs an extension on a paper.

Money or politics?

Others claim McGill lacks the financial resources necessary to make the university entirely accessible.

Associate Dean Lynn Butler-Kisber said the university is supportive of accessibility projects and is prepared to make changes. These changes must be carried out on an individual to individual basis because student disabilities cannot be determined before their arrival to McGill.

But "making all buildings completely ac-

cessible is unrealistic," said Butler-Kisber.

"I would not put it as a lack of political will, but as a lack of hard cash. The university's attitude is good considering the horrendous deficit and lack of funding," said Aikens.

But Eric Darier, former PGSS rep, disagrees. "There is no political will at McGill."

"It's a shame accessibility is not a priority for McGill," he said, "The post grad society is paying out of its own pocket [to make buildings accessible]."

McGill's policy on services for the Disabled includes two ambiguous provisions. McGill will expand its program accessibility only to meet existing demands.

And although McGill accepts responsibility for "normal" costs of providing support services for the disabled, "special gifts" and grants should be solicited by the Board-Senate sub-committee on accessibility.

A May 1991 report projected \$829,000 would be needed from Physical Plant funds. But some sources say funds already exist for projects if the university were willing to prioritize them.

Student initiated projects

Money for accessibility projects end up coming out of charity events — and students' pockets.

McGill alumnae organized a phone-a-thon last November to raised funds. The fundraiser paid to replace the turnstiles in the Redpath Library with the present panel system.

But allocating the bulk of the funds from last November's phone-a-thon are only now being reviewed.

"The bureaucracy is slow," said Ward-Smith.

Student groups, such as the Post-Graduate Students' Society and Access McGill have also raised funds.

The Post-Grad Society and the Senate/Board Committee joined forces to pay for a \$15,000 wheelchair ramp at Thompson House. They're also working to make the buildings' bathrooms accessible.

Students currently pay two dollars per term for access projects. The money must be used to pay for "equipment and services", such as expensive specialized tape recorders, slide enlargers, and a voice synthesizer, according to Aikens.

Continuation of the two dollars per term will go to student referendum in the spring. Christina Echols, chair of Access McGill, said, "The idea is to keep applying responsibility to the University."

Even when McGill gets money, its often reluctant to use it. The university recently acquired \$25 000 from the Quebec government for on-campus transportation.

But extending the hours of the campus van to adjust to new class hours was "immediately met with the statement that's impossible" by the Board Committee, said the report by Kasnakian and Keelane. Ultimately, the hours were extended.

The report advocates three initial adjustments: to establish the coordinator of services as a full-time position; to promote sensitization to students with disabilities; and to change the location of the office.

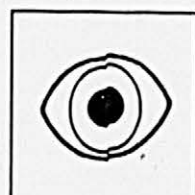
Discouraged from McGill

When Pamela Berry, a former University of Alberta student, inquired about McGill, she was advised if she were mobility impaired, she shouldn't attend McGill — due to its mountain locale, old buildings and partially accessible campus.

Berry now attends McGill, and she's developing a pamphlet outlining the needs, rights and expectations of disabled students at McGill to facilitate student/professor interaction along with her fellow anthropology student,

Caroline Tait.

"Access at the University of Alberta is excellent due to provincial funding," she said. "If other universities make access a priority, why doesn't McGill?"



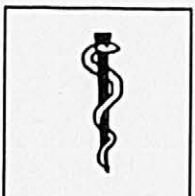
VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS



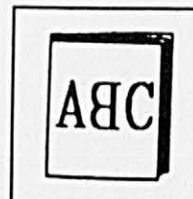
HEARING IMPAIRMENTS



MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS



MEDICAL DISABILITIES



LEARNING DISABILITIES

POWELL STUDENT SERVICES

SUMMARY	Partially accessible (ground floor only) no elevators; accessible washroom
ENTRANCE	Main entrance off Peel street, has ramp (1:5 grade, may require assistance)
INTERIOR	Only 50% of ground floor is accessible
WASHROOMS	Accessible washrooms, located on ground floor
ACCESSIBLE SERVICES	Health Services, located on the ground floor is the only accessible service. Other services may be attained by telephoning in advance and arranging to meet in a special ground floor meeting room set up for this purpose.
TELEPHONES	Located at the main entrance

Where education is a crime

by Ania Kazi

"Under no circumstances can you teach, in houses or anywhere else. If we find anyone teaching, or any students carrying books, we will take appropriate measures against them."

— Deputy Military Director of the West Bank. April, 1989

What do *Hamlet*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Merchant of Venice* have in common? They belong to a long list of over 2000 books banned by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank and Gaza. But look for them in Tel-Aviv, and you will find them without a problem.

Not only are these books blacklisted, but others are heavily censored. The Jordanian and Egyptian textbooks used in Palestinian schools are dutifully purged of any word like "Palestinian," "Palestine" and "homeland." You cannot teach Palestinian history, culture, geography and politics. Maps of Palestine and the colors of the Palestinian flag are outlawed.

Closing the schools is just a continuation of other Israeli policies which deny Palestinians their culture and self-determination, said Yusef Arafat, president of the McGill Palestine Solidarity Committee.

"Schools are for Palestinians, where children learn about their culture and history. It is a political place."

Other elements of the education system have also suffered under the Israeli occupation. No new school or classroom has been built since the beginning of the occupation in 1967. Science classes have no labs, making science a theoretical and pointless exercise. Most schools have no libraries or playgrounds, many have no toilets, and textbooks are out of date.

Being a student in Palestine is itself a risky business. Students make up almost half the Palestinians placed in Israeli prisons since the *intifada* began in December 1987. Fifty per cent of the Palestinians injured by Israeli soldiers were students, and nearly half those killed were students.

Several were shot and killed on campus. The military — and more frequently, armed Jewish settlers — regularly break into class-

rooms, and seize students they suspect of offenses, beating them in front of other students. Often, soldiers disrupt classes simply to intimidate an increasingly militant youth.

When students are arrested in the schools, they are often detained under military regulations without charges or trials. The military order concerning these so-called "administrative detentions" was recently updated to allow arrests of Palestinians without charges or trial for up to a year, renewable indefinitely.

Kindergartens closed

In 1988, all West Bank schools, colleges and universities were closed down by military order for nearly eight months, preventing 320 000 students from going to school. West Bank schools were closed again in 1989 for six months, and since then schools were closed repeatedly at the whim of the military authorities. The army charged that schools were being used as staging grounds for protests against the Israeli occupation.

In Tulkarem refugee camp, the 1200 students in the camp's five schools only received 40 days of school in 1989. In the West Bank, this is the rule rather than the exception. The authorities invoke the pretext of "state security" to justify closures.

But many Palestinian educators are puzzled at this justification since even kindergartens and elementary schools are closed under the orders. In fact, it is education itself that is under attack, they believe. Why else would study kits and off-campus teaching be declared illegal by military order, many wonder.

Soon after the closings, informal classes

were organized in kitchens, gardens, stores and mosques to circumvent closures and frequent curfews ordered on Palestinian communities.

But these were quickly declared illegal by the military as well. The price for conducting such informal classes is high — it can cost an educator up to \$5000 in fines and 10 years in prison.

Ironically, a school teacher I met in the West Bank told me that during the Gulf war,

his school was approached by Israeli teachers who wanted to know how to start a home-study program for their own schools that had to be closed.

Rising illiteracy

The closings make it almost impossible for the educators to plan course programs, since they can never predict when their school will be hit by another closure. The problem takes on dramatic proportions in a country where 50 per cent of the Palestinian population is below age 16.

Palestinian educators fear that an entire generation of Palestinian children is going without an education in a society where formal education has always been highly valued. The Palestinian people were the most educated per capita in the Middle East, and one of the most educated in the world. But now, many educators report rising illiteracy and cognitive disability among students.

The closings are also leading to social breakdown because schools have always been the second home for Palestinians, said Arafat, of the McGill Palestinian group. The closings have dovetailed with massive poverty to push youth into gangs, selling drugs and engaging in crime, he said.

Denying education to the Palestinians means killing them slowly, Arafat said. It ensures that Palestinians will remain subjugated and economically dependent in the future.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee invites students and staff to a Palestinian cultural exhibition in the Union Ballroom (on the third floor) on Tuesday, from 10h30 to 21h. Traditional clothing and food will be sold, and a Dabkey troupe will perform.



Soldiers on the roof: a letter to Walid

by Ania Kazi

Walid al-Souki was a 14-year old boy from the Jenin district, in the West Bank. He was shot at close range with two bullets on July 18, 1991. Israeli soldiers came at midnight, lay siege to his neighborhood and killed him. Once dead, they discharged 30 more bullets into his body. When they told his mother that her son was dead, she replied "My son is not dead, he is a martyr."

Today the soldiers still periodically raid Walid's house, destroying possessions of his family and taking away his pictures. The authorities do not want his story publicized.

The following is a letter written to the martyr Walid and all other Palestinian children:

"I am an officer. This is my country. I can do what I want."

The soldier's face was convulsed and red from too much angry shouting. His words were like whiplashes, that still snap in my head.

His words spoke of domination and conceit. They spoke of the ar-

rogance of the occupier and of the daily humiliation of your people,

the Palestinians. They brutally summed up the essence of the occupation, an occupation that no international community's opinion can put to shame.

That day the curfew had just been declared in Ramallah. A few feet away from me, the soldiers were lining up women, children and men against a wall and asking for IDs. They threatened to send me too to the police station, simply for wearing a medallion with the word "Palestine" on it.

For it is not enough for the Israelis to kill, wound, deport, imprison and bulldoze. They want to erase the very concept of Palestine. They would like to uproot the word from the people's memory and language, just as they uproot the olive trees. But your peo-

ple will never forget, and will always resist.

I had the immense privilege to be welcomed into your home last summer, to meet your sisters, your brothers, your parents, your neighbors. Your home is beautiful, for it is wide open.

But soldiers are living on the roof of your house. Maybe tomorrow it will be levelled down. Your family is beautiful, but many are wounded, and your little brother can only gaze at us from behind the glass of his picture frame. He was eating a sandwich outside his house when the soldiers shot him.

Your country is beautiful, but it is crisscrossed by Israeli settlements that dominate your villages from the hills and eat up what remains of your land.

But all this you know already. I also knew of the massive human rights violations under Israeli occupation, but now I have human faces, human words that speak to me behind the statistics. Words that speak louder than the soldiers'

words, louder than the soldier's guns.

Almost every young man has been in prison several years, and one of them was telling me about resisting questions in the interrogation room. "When they start beating you up, you know that you have won, that you are stronger."

For solidarity is strong among the Palestinians. And when a *shebab* is martyred, another *shebab* from his community will "father" his name, so that the memory lives on. Abu Walid, Abu Mahmoud, Abu Youssef...

With the "peace" conference in Madrid these days, I have been thinking a lot about you, Walid. Most of the world has been formally decolonized, yet the right to self-determination is still denied to your people. Already 65 per cent of occupied Palestine has been confiscated for the purpose of Israeli settlements. In a few years, what will be left?

The present is urgent, but you cannot be part of it.



Anthropology Students get the power

by Irene Bloemraad

Anthropology students will have a greater say in departmental decisions this year.

In a move to increase student input, the Anthropology Students' Association (ASA) successfully pressured the department to include a student co-chair on its undergraduate committee last year.

And this year students set up a task force to suggest means for increasing their power at the departmental level.

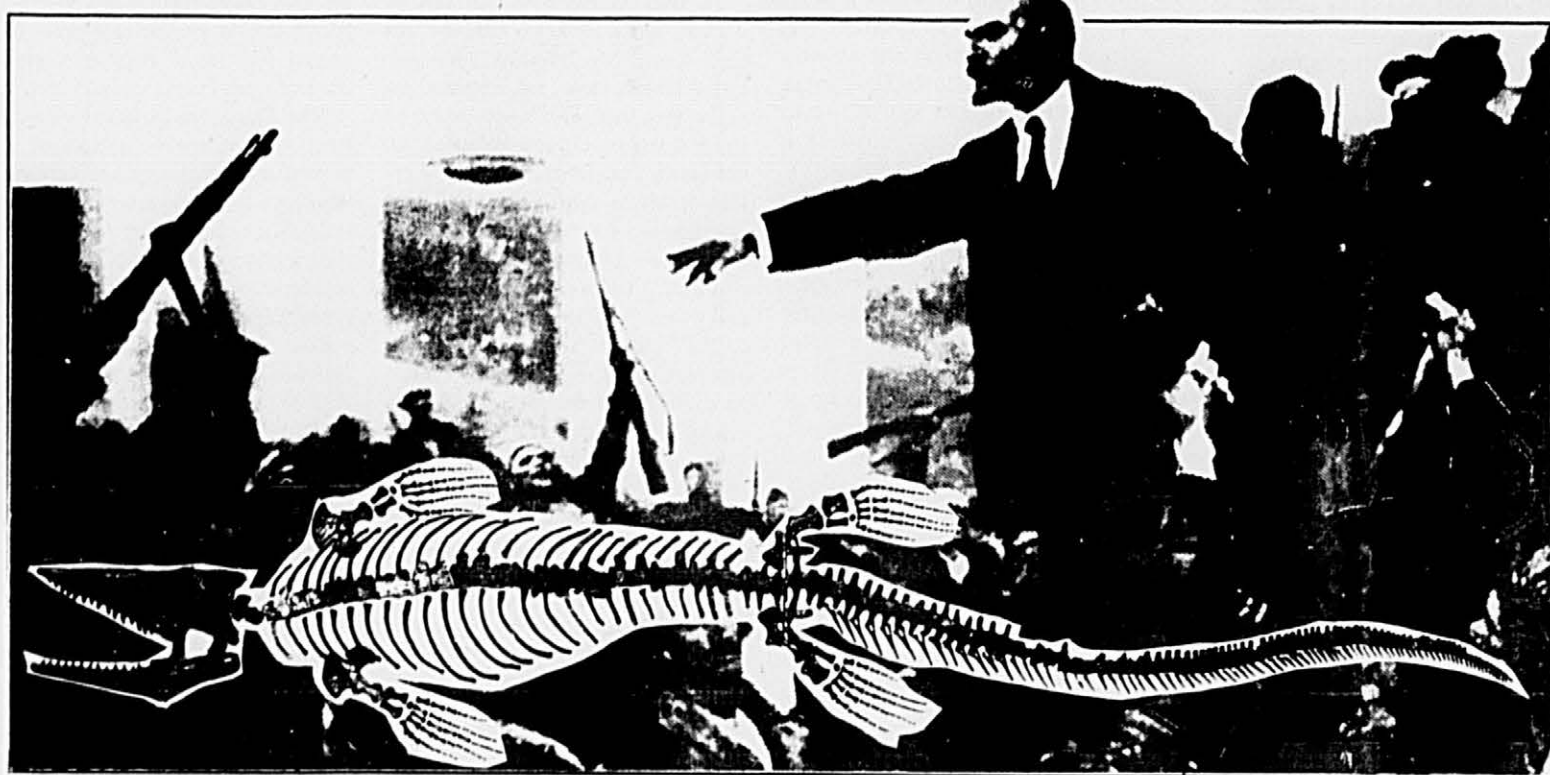
Student co-chair of the undergraduate committee David Kennedy said the changes were positive. "It's important that students have a voice on undergraduate committee, since it makes a lot of decisions regarding courses," Kennedy said.

But anthropology student Brian Schnarch said the changes occurred after years of student demands for more input into departmental decision-making processes.

"For many years we have been shut out from most decision making processes," said Schnarch. "Anything that gets done occurs because we yelled loud enough, or because our priorities coincided with theirs."

The undergraduate committee sends recommendations to the department on course curriculum and hiring decisions. Previously four professors and three students served on the professor-chaired committee. With the new co-chair position, profs and students have equal representation on the committee.

Don Atwood, professorial co-chair on the undergraduate committee, said "The co-chair position



Cultural revolution comes to McGill: Red Guard bests departmental dinosaurs

gives students slightly more formalized power."

The new task force will investigate changing departmental decision-making processes. Voting at department meetings is a central issue. Currently, depart-

mental meetings have the final say in all matters. Students do not have a formal vote at departmental meetings.

"I would like students to have a vote [in the department] but I don't expect any change," said Rebecca Handford, a

chairperson on the Anthropology Students' Association.

Lisa Elkin, the other chair of the students' association, expressed concern that voting at departmental meetings and in departmental committees was not done by secret ballot. She said at some meetings

professors would only vote after checking to make sure they were voting with the majority.

Two years ago Elkin organized a 300 signature petition in an attempt to bring more courses on physical anthropology into the department.

"I never got a response to the petition," she said. "They sat on it for months."

Schnarch said that some professors opposed increased student participation. During a meeting held last year, professors likened students to the "Red Guard" in their pursuit of a more formalized voice in departmental decisions, said Schnarch.

"One [professor] felt students were trying to dismantle academic freedom," Schnarch said.

But last year's undergraduate chair Professor Roger Keesing said opposition to the co-chair was minimal. "My sense was that no one was against a student as co-chair," said Keesing.

ASA co-president Rebecca Handford said the department's hiring policy operates on inertia, preventing the introduction of new areas of specialization. "New professors are hired who have the same expertise as a departing professor," said Handford.

Keesing said problems could arise because of the difference in focus between undergraduate and graduate faculty.

"We are forced to push graduate education," Keesing said. The faculty's funding is weighted in proportion to the number of graduate students, giving graduate concerns a higher priority, he said.

"This indirectly serves the undergraduates but sometimes it works at their expense."

ASA members want to increase the department's emphasis on gender, Latin American and physical anthropology in its courses.

The ASA will continue its efforts, said Handford. "We make student advocacy a priority," she said.

Post Grads elect president

by Peter Clibbon

With two new members and a spanking-new executive, Québec's only post-graduate student association is changing the face of the student movement.

"Québec has an increasing number of graduate students that have quickly become a growing force that people will eventually have to reckon with," said

Eric Darier, council speaker for McGill's Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS).

In September, post-graduate students from Concordia and Université de Québec à Rimouski joined RACSQ (Regroupement des associations des cycles supérieurs du Québec). The three-year old association also includes post-graduate students from McGill, Laval and Polytechnique.

And last week, McGill student and PGSS executive Eugenio Bolongaro was elected RACSQ president, marking the second year a McGill student has held the presidential post.

"As far as McGill is concerned, this election is an example of the role that our university can and should play in Québec," said PGSS president Michael Temelini. "The election of an allophone demonstrates once again RACSQ's maturity and courage as an organization."

With RACSQ's increasing membership Darier said the organization can now speak out with a stronger voice on issues affecting post-graduate students.

"RACSQ doesn't pretend to represent all graduate students, but we know what the economic and social realities are for grad students," said Darier. "We think a major rethinking on university tuition fees is required."

RACSQ's membership now includes 18 000 post-graduate students. Darier said grad students at Université de Québec à Montréal could be the association's next member.

La Fédération Etudiante Universitaire de Québec (FEUQ) does not represent grad students exclusively, but it is the other student organization representing grad students. FEUQ counts 10 000 post-graduate students from Université de Montréal as members.

Recycling returns to Union Building

by Michael Rottmayer

McGill's recycling program has expanded to include the Union building.

The university's waste management department collects recyclables from the Union at no cost to Students' Society.

"We were going to have Laidlaw [the company handling Union garbage] pick it up for \$75 per month, but the university asked us not to," said Alex Johnston, Students' Society VP Internal.

Claude Lahaie, manager of waste management at McGill, says about 90 per cent of the downtown campus already has recycling in place. The department picks up recyclables, sorts and stores them until there is enough material to send off to the recycler.

The university has no specific recycling budget, so the costs of the recycling program are taken from the university's waste management budget. He was not sure how much the program cost.

Two years ago Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) set up paper recycling boxes in the lobby, but the program crashed because there was no one to pick the paper up. Last year the only recycling program in the Union building recycled clear glass in the cafeteria.

Johnston said the agreement is "great as long as it works." Students' Society will move back to working with Laidlaw if the university fails to pick up the Union's recyclables, she said.

Lahaie has plans to increase the size of the program, both in terms of the area covered and materials taken. He suggested Macdonald College would be the next major area for expansion.

"At MacDonald College, because it is so far away, we must do it all at once. It takes careful planning," said Lahaie.

He hoped the Macdonald campus recycling would begin at the end of November, but he said he needed more secure space to store the additional material. "You don't want all that paper to catch fire."

When asked about possibly taking newsprint in the future, Lahaie was skeptical.

"There is too much newsprint right now. There are no de-inking mills to send it to. If the mill opens, we may start next summer. But, the mill was supposed to open two years ago."

On the lack of de-inking mills, Jacqueline Mayrand of QPIRG said, "The government needs to do something. If government has the will to push this, it will happen. Companies need some kind of backing to start recycling programs."

The new recycling program accepts white or coloured bond paper, photocopy paper, computer paper, and stationery. It does not accept newsprint, coated paper, magazines, or paper bags, among other things. All Students' Society clubs have boxes, as well as the Daily and CKUT. Johnston said that Legal Aid would be asked to participate as well.

continued from page 4

that freedom of speech is an inalienable right, and should be so held by all individuals, including members of the Women's Union and LGBM.

Neal Rayner
U3 Arts
Christopher C. Kirk
U4 Arts

Flagrant bad attitude

To the Daily:

In the October 24 *McGill Daily*, as part of an article on how to get a job "Teaching English in Japan", Mark Rowe writes: "...while you will need a degree, generally a photocopy will do. So if you have yet to graduate, fear not. Liquid paper and a typewriter will do for you in five minutes, what might otherwise cost you twenty thousand dollars and four years of your life."

As one of my colleagues exclaimed, on being shown this passage: "God, that's obnoxious". Not just evil in itself in the way of all lies, this brand of misrepresentation cheats a hopeful employer, betrays the hospitality of a host-nation, tarnishes the alma mater, and is simply unfair to all who have had to work for their degrees.

For these reasons, counterfeiting a degree would constitute grounds for expulsion from McGill, and rejection from studies or employment at any honest University world-wide; it could also lead to prosecution for fraud under the laws of Canada and Japan, and pursuit in the civil courts for wages and expenses collected under false pretenses (in the end, \$20,000 and four years are not so bad in comparison - and working towards a real degree, one might actually learn something too).

With such flagrant evidence of bad attitude, *Daily* readers should not be surprised that professors are resorting to computers to control cheating at exams - it is unfortunate that students (and indeed, all people everywhere) must pay, in lost dignity and in other ways, for the few cheaters among them.

I am ashamed, as a McGill person and as a Canadian, that this invitation to debasement should have come from a McGill student, and appeared in a publication bearing the McGill name. To protect themselves from the disciples of Mr. Rowe, I must urge the Japanese consulate, and all other potential employers, to accept only authorized copies of degrees directly mailed from the home institution.

Graham Darling
Professor of Chemistry

If we open the floodgates...

To the Daily:

In their October 23 letter, Messrs. Andrew-Mziray and Abiscott lament that *The McGill Daily* refused to print letters with overt racist, homophobic, or sexist content.

If we open the floodgates to such letters, let's not stop there. Why not reopen the debate on slavery, child labour, and whether Jews are fit to live? After all, we may have jumped to some hasty conclusions. Abraham Lincoln was just a whining liberal, right fellas? I'm sure there will be a nauseating number of bigoted people ready to "come out" of their literary "closets" and take up poison pens to impress us all with their astonishing philosophical insight.

We cannot afford to give people the impression their hateful beliefs are legitimate. If you had a sister who had been assaulted or raped, perhaps you would not be so ready to condone jokes about violence against women. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe you'd find that "rather amusing" as well.

If I shared your views, I'd read your letter and go, "Right on!" If I also had a violent personality, I might think: if I

hit my girlfriend, it's all right. After all, other people think kicking women in the teeth is funny - I read it in the *Commerce Communiqué*. But if YOU, Messrs. Andrew-Mziray and Abiscott, were to write a letter to the *Daily* stating that you find violence against women repugnant, I might not feel quite as cocksure as before. Remember, I'm insecure - I care enormously what people think about me.

But you didn't, preferring to fight for those who would print hate literature. So I won't think twice about hitting my girlfriend. Or going out and raping someone. Or going to École Polytechnique and murdering 14 women. And, sorry to inform you, gentlemen, but some of their blood would be on your hands.

Mark Carter
U2 Music

Representing our own interests

To the Daily:

In response to the uninformed letter from Monsieur Pierre LaRoque on Oct. 23, we have decided to treat your letter with all the contempt it deserves. Apparently your grammar is equivalent to an ass' (excuse the pun), because we never proposed to represent the interests of McGill students, only ourselves.

As to how we determine what is worthwhile printing, obviously this is a strictly subjective opinion that we share. As for the source of our information, we obtained it from a member of the SSMU executive who quoted it to us off the record.

The questions that you posed were so rhetorical that they don't even deserve a response. In regard to the "greedheads...that run student affairs" sic. We have found no definition for this in the English language. It is no wonder, since you must live in an imaginary world where sexist homophobes chase you into the closet. Since apparently you can't comprehend English, maybe you should read the *McGill Français*, then no misinterpretation will result. Au revoir for now, Monsieur La Rocque.

P.S. April Cohen, re: your letter of Oct. 23, we couldn't agree more.

Josh Abiscott
U2 Physiology
Ngana Andrew-Mziray
U2 Economics



Alliance not likely

To the Daily:

Re: "Free Trade: Canada's Fire Sale" (*Daily* Oct. 30)

David Orchard, of Citizens Concerned about Free Trade, has articulated the problems faced by Canadians living under the disastrous Canada-U.S. Free Trade agreement. We have all witnessed the systematic dismantling of Canada's infrastructure resulting from Brian Mulroney's foolish economic policies.

However, Mr. Orchard goes on to suggest that an electoral alliance between the Liberals and New Democrats would win, and "tear up the free trade agreement" following victory. Let's not kid ourselves.

Many prominent Liberals, such as Donald Johnston, Roy MacLaren, and John Manley, are currently pushing for a right wing shift in Liberal economic policy, which would include retaining the FTA. Liberal leader Jean Chrétien

himself has NOT ruled out keeping most of the trade deal intact.

As Don Johnston recently said at McGill "Until 1988, we were the free trade party." Mr. Johnston, president of the Liberal Party, has admitted, in saying this, that Liberal opposition to the FTA was purely opportunistic, the old saying that Liberals act like New Democrats in opposition, and like Tories in Government applies here.

The New Democrats are the only major party to have avoided consistent and cohesive opposition to the FTA. CCAFT lobbyists at our federal convention in Halifax got a cold reception from delegates when they claimed that an electoral alliance with the Liberals would "save Canada."

The vast majority of New Democrats have no intention of supporting CCAFT's coalition idea. The only way to stop free trade is to elect an NDP government.

Alex Ng

Co-President NDP McGill

Rights infringed

To the Daily:

In response to Leif Montin's letter; by his own analogy Bourassa, Laurin, and Parizeau must have had a good laugh at the expense of the academe at McGill since the university has in fact legislated to enforce gender neutrality, rather than encourage it.

Hence the rights of the individual to free speech and free expression have in fact been infringed upon, by legislated coercion which could only occur in the sheltered reality of campus politics.

The coercion is simply the use of the word "required" as opposed to "strongly encouraged" in the McGill Senate resolution.

Patrick Fruchet
U1 Political Science

Porter better than Orchard

To the Daily:

In his interview with the *McGill Daily*, David Orchard, head of Citizens Concerned about Free Trade, blames the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement for just about all of Canada's problems.

Orchard blames Free Trade for: Loss of jobs, the GST, a threat to Canadian Sovereignty, higher inflation, etc. His attempts to convince the readers of a linkage between Free Trade and these issues are, to be kind, naive. In just one example of his weak rationale, he states that because "inflation has risen" Free Trade is the cause. Furthermore, he claims that "the constitution is the only way Brian Mulroney can think of to divert our attention from the disaster in the Canadian economy." The constitution is not a diversion, but a necessity if Canada is to remain intact.

In his recent study, Michael Porter found that Canada lacks competitiveness. Free Trade, while causing short term hardship, is an answer to enhancing Canada's competitiveness. Building trade barriers to shelter inefficient organizations penalizes Canadian consumers with high prices for poor quality goods while preserving damaging economic flaws. The powerful unions are also a major cause of Canada's lack of competitiveness because they create high prices for poor quality goods while preserving damaging economic flaws. The powerful unions are also a major cause of Canada's lack of competitiveness because they create inflationary pressures, and result in the production of unnaturally high priced goods that cannot compete internationally. The recent strikes for wage hikes in the face of Canada's economic weakness demonstrates the unions' reluctance to cooperate for Canada's betterment.

Also for Mr. Orchard's benefit,

inflation, in my opinion the most serious economic problem because of its all encompassing effects on the economy, is falling thanks to the courageous but painful policies of Bank of Canada Governor John Crow.

What Canada really needs is increased free trade, the elimination of all provincial barriers, a real willingness of unions to make necessary sacrifices, and continued monetary policy aimed at creating price stability. Canada does not need emotionally based but factually unsound arguments that if pursued would further erode Canada's diminishing economic welfare.

Don Sutherland, MBA2



Lobbying not so bad

To the Daily:

In your comment of the October 15 issue, we could read about the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec that "...what is really stunning is FEUQ's naive idea that the Québec government and corporations are actually going to chip in their fare share" attacking FEUQ's new partnership proposal and condemning the way they are trying to promote it, "their preference for lobbying and compromises with the government, instead of taking to the streets."

Lobbying and compromises might not look as romantic as filling the streets, but it appears today, the lobby groups have most of the political power. The extreme example of this situation is found in the U.S. where lobbying might be able to prevent the free entrance of Canadian artists and athletes while governments are trying to create the biggest free market in the world!

In reference to the same article in which you stated that the Conseil du Patronat "... even suggested Québec businesses might kick in with a special tax to pay for education," we could be lead to think that FEUQ's lobbying attitude is indeed efficient.

Or maybe we should be less "naive" than the *Daily* who gives credibility to such an assertion and just assumes that FEUQ still has a lot of job to do before we get to its proposal.

One way or the other, if lobbying is more efficient today than walks and strikes, students would be pretty stupid not to give it a try in defending their interests... no matter appearances, i.e. no matter the nature of the *Daily*'s arguments.

Patrick Minotti
Philosophy, U of M

Should opinions be suppressed?

To the Daily:

Re: "Bounds of Speech"
We disagree with you. Do you deem that statement hateful? Anyone can identify numerous regimes under which such a statement would result in imprisonment or worse. If we allow a single individual or group to determine what is or is not "acceptable" speech what is to prevent any opinion contrary

to those of that body from being deemed beyond the bounds of freedom of speech? Who is to decide what constitutes hate literature? The Nazis included in this category anything said against the Third Reich. Do the authors believe that Women's Union and LGBM are unable to argue against sexist and homophobic opinions, and that therefore these opinions must be suppressed and allowed to continue? Or should they be brought to the fore, where they may be discussed logically and proven to be unfounded? As the *Daily* recognizes, "keeping silent about this [or any] situation helps perpetuate it." "Freedom is the freedom to say 2+2=4; after that, all else follows." George Orwell, 1984. We maintain that freedom of speech is an inalienable right, and should be so held by all individuals, including members of the Women's Union and LGBM.

Neal Rayner U3 Arts
Christopher C. Kirk, U4 Arts

A sad fact

To the Daily:

David Grosskopf displays a bad case of Killing the Messenger in his October 28 letter to the *Daily*. He calls "elusive and disparaging" the reference to several male supporters at the October 22 anti-rap demonstration. Given that, by his own admission, there were 20 to 30 men there and over 200 women, would he have been satisfied to read that "women outnumbered men by ten to one"? Get a life, David. For all your demands of "a more deeply embedded shifting of cultural awareness and priorities," it is a sad fact that very few men are "walking their talk" when it comes to opposing sexism. On the issue of rape in particular, men overwhelmingly side with assaulters: Most laugh at rape jokes, defend misogynist hate propaganda as free speech, fund the porn industry and protect their frat "brothers" when women's voices manage to be heard.

I am not "bashing" men; I am acknowledging where most of us stand. In a U.S. study of rape propensity, 65 per cent of the university students polled said that they would force sex on women if they were assured impunity. Half of these wannabe rapists did not even consider it rape.

It has become a cliché of breast beating New Men to argue that vivid instances of sexism should not be defined as women's issues. Given men's choices, I doubt whether these issues would survive very long as men's issues... The media don't have to downplay (as Grosskopf charges) men's role in the prevention of sexual assault; men seem to be doing it quite well themselves, thank you. Shifting blame will not do.

Martin Dufrense
Montreal Men Against Sexism



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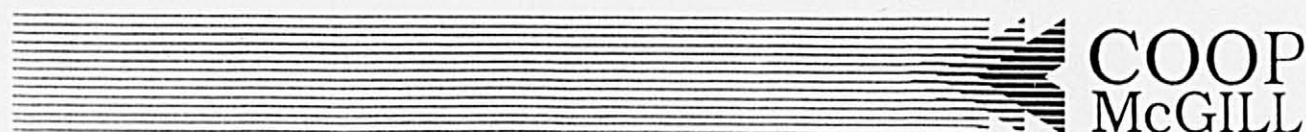
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